

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AF-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00

EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /113 W

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O 070204Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2623

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 09109

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, ILO

SUBJECT: ILO: 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 129460

1. SUMMARY. FONSEC EXPLAINS MEXICO'S NO VOTE AS PURELY PROCEDURAL AND THE RESULT OF COMBINATION OF MEXICO'S LONG-ESTABLISHED POSITION FAVORING CONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 17 AMENDMENT IN STRUCTURE COMMITTEE AND DESIRE NOT REPEAT NOT TO CONTRIBUTE TO "ABSTENTION STAMPEDE" TOWARD PREVENTING CONSIDERATION OF U.S. AMENDMENT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT MEXICAN DELEGATION'S INSTRUCTIONS ARE TO SEEK CONCILIATION AND NEGOTIATE MODIFICATION OF U.S. AMENDMENT WHICH WILL PERMIT ITS PASSAGE. HE HAS AGREED TO INSTRUCT MEXICAN DELEGATION TO WORK AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE WITH U.S. DELEGATION AND ASKS THAT CHIEF OF U.S. DELEGATION CONSULT WITH SENIOR MEXICAN DELEGATE ARMENDARIZ. END SUMMARY.

2. REFTEL ONLY RECEIVED AT OPENING OF BUSINESS TODAY, JUNE 6. UPON RECEIPT REFTEL, I SOUGHT APPOINTMENT WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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FONSEC ROEL. I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM MEETING. FONSEC WAS ACCOMPANIED BY UNDER-SEC ROSENZWEIG-DIAZ. I REEMPHASIZED TO THE FONSEC IMPORTANCE U.S. ATTACHES TO CURRENT ILO CONFERENCE, SPOKE ALONG LINES PARA. 3 REFTEL, AND RAISED QUESTION OF MEXICAN VOTE AGAINST MOTION TO SEND ARTICLE 17 AMENDMENT TO COMMITTEE ON STANDING ORDERS.

3. FONSEC EXPLAINED THAT MEXICO'S VOTE WAS EXCLUSIVELY PROCEDURAL, NOT RELATED TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE U.S. POSITION, AND THE RESULT OF THE FOLLOWING TWO CIRCUMSTANCES:

A. GIVEN THE FACT THAT ARTICLE 17 AMENDMENT ARISES PRIMARILY FROM ARAB SPONSORED CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL IN ILO, GOM HAS ALWAYS BELIEVED IT POLITICALLY MORE APPROPRIATE AND PRODUCTIVE TO CONSIDER THIS HIGHLY-CHARGED ISSUE IN THE STRUCTURE COMMITTEE RATHER THAN IN COMMITTEE ON STANDING ORDERS. MEXICAN DELEGATION SO VOTED IN COMMITTEE BUT LOST WHEN COMMITTEE VOTED TO SEND AMENDMENT TO COMMITTEE ON STANDING ORDERS BY VOTE OF 29 TO 19.

B. IT WAS MEXICO'S INTENTION TO ACCEPT THIS DEFEAT QUIETLY AND SIMPLY ABSTAIN IN PLENARY. HOWEVER, WHEN CALL WAS MADE IN PLENARY FOR MASSIVE ABSENCES OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO PREVENT ANY CONSIDERATION OF U.S. PROPOSAL IN ANY COMMITTEE BY DENYING THE AMENDMENT A QUORUM, MEXICO COULD NOT ACQUIESCE AND PREFERRED THE UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION OF ISOLATION IN A NO VOTE IN ORDER TO CONTRIBUTE TO A QUORUM.

4. FONSEC ASSURED ME THAT MEXICO'S ACTION HAS BEEN PURELY PROCEDURAL AND NOT ADDRESSED TO SUBSTANCE OF U.S. PROPOSAL. HE ASKED UNDER-SEC ROSENZWEIG-DIAZ TO READ ME PORTIONS OF INSTRUCTIONS TO MEXICAN DELEGATION WHICH POINT OUT THAT GOM WOULD REGRET U.S. FULFILLMENT OF ITS NOTICE OF INTENTION TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO AND INSTRUCT DELEGATION TO AVOID CONFLICTIVE SITUATIONS AND SEEK TO NEGOTIATE CHANGES
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IN ARTICLE 17 AMENDMENT SATISFACTORY TO U.S. DELEGATION WHICH CAPABLE OF COMMANDING MAJORITY SUPPORT.

5. I THANKED FONSEC FOR HIS EXPLANATION AND ASSURANCES. I SAID I UNDERSTOOD THE MEXICAN POSITION BUT BELIEVED THAT AFTER THE VERY SYMPATHETIC RECEPTION GIVEN TO USG REPRESENTATIVE HOROWITZ HERE BY BOTH FONSEC HIMSELF AND SEC LABOR, IT WAS DISAPPOINTING THAT MEXICAN POSITION HAD NOT SEEMED AS HELPFUL AS WE HAD HOPED IN THIS MAJOR TEST AT CONFERENCE. I ASKED HIM IF HE WOULD BE WILLING TO INSTRUCT GOM DELEGATION TO WORK AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE WITH USDEL ON THIS AND SUCCEEDING ISSUES AT CONFERENCE.

6. FONSEC ASSURED ME HE WOULD DO SO AND ASKED THAT CHIEF OF USDEL MAKE AN EFFORT TO CONSULT DIRECTLY WITH ARMENDARIZ, SENIOR MEXICAN DELEGATE NOW IN GENEVA.

7. COMMENT: I AM HOPEFUL THAT WITH GREATER EFFORT ON BOTH SIDES, U.S. AND MEXICAN POSITIONS CAN BE BROUGHT

INTO HARMONY IN GENEVA. FOR THE RECORD, I MUST POINT OUT THAT, WHILE I AM NOT INFORMED OF ANY CONTACTS WITH THE MEXICANS ELSEWHERE WHICH MIGHT BEAR ON THIS QUESTION, MEXICANS DID NOT REPEAT NOT ASSURE HOROWITZ DURING HIS VISIT HERE THAT THEIR DELEGATION WOULD SUPPORT THE U.S. POSITION. THOMPSON

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